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ASCS

[Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service]

1972 ANNUAL REPORT

Pender-
New Hanover
County

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service
Highway 117A South
Burgaw, North Carolina 28425

FOREWORD

At the close of each year the Pender-New Hanover County ASC Committees publish an annual report to keep the public abreast of ASCS operations in the county. ASCS is an organization developed for the purpose of achieving the greatest protection and improvement of the natural resources of the farms of our nation. The goal of the organization at all times is to assure the farmers a fair share of the national income.

We have attempted to give a brief explanation of each of the programs administered by the Pender-New Hanover County Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service during 1972. We hope that through this report we can promote a clearer understanding of ASCS's purpose and function.

We gratefully acknowledge the efforts put forth by the community committeemen, farmers, other agricultural agencies, our District Director, and the State ASCS Office Staff to make our operation a success in Pender-New Hanover County during 1972.

The Pender County ASCS Office is located in the county seat, Burgaw, North Carolina, on Highway 117A south. A sub-office is maintained in Wilmington, North Carolina, located in the Post Office Building at Front and Chestnut Streets. Our office hours are from 8:00 a. m. to 5:00 p. m., Monday through Friday.

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ADMINISTRATION

Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, or ASCS, is a branch of the United States Department of Agriculture, and is responsible for administering farm programs enacted by Congress and regulated by the Secretary of Agriculture. The programs administered by the Pender-New Hanover County ASCS Office in 1972 included the Rural Environmental Assistance Program, Cropland Adjustment Program, the Price Support Program, Production Adjustment Program, and Compliance.

The State ASC Committee is composed of five members who are appointed by the Secretary of Agriculture. The State Committee is responsible for ASCS policy determination at the state level. State ASCS offices are operated by state executive directors. Representatives from the state offices, known as district directors, serve county offices by districts. These men serve as liaison for state and county offices through their guidance on technical problems.

County ASCS offices are under the direction of county executive directors, who are hired by farmer-elected county committees. Elections are held annually for the purpose of electing a three-man committee to serve for the entire county, and a three-man committee to serve for each ASCS community in the county. Pender and New Hanover Counties consist of fourteen communities.

The county committee is responsible for determining ASCS policy within the regulations and State Committee policies. These determinations are carried out through the county executive director, who is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the county office. The community committeemen keep the farmers of their respective community informed about the various programs and serve in other capacities as may be necessary.

1972 ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

NORTH CAROLINA STATE ASC COMMITTEE

Trenton B. Jordan
Henry L. McGimpsey
Sam E. Rouse
W. Proctor Scarboro
James P. Turlington

STATE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Herbert O. Carter

DISTRICT DIRECTOR

Max H. Cornwell
Alfred Willetts

PENDER COUNTY ASC COMMITTEE

Jack M. Woodcock, Chairman
DeLeon Fennell, Vice-Chairman
Roy M. Thomas, Regular Member
James Eakins, First Alternate
Carl Heath, Second Alternate

NEW HANOVER COUNTY ASC COMMITTEE

John H. Covil, Chairman
Albert D. Cox, Jr., Vice-Chairman
Gerrit Swart, Regular Member
J. D. McCarley, First Alternate
C. E. Rivenbark, Second Alternate

COUNTY OFFICE PERSONNEL

Casper Wells, County Executive Director
Elizabeth H. Batson, Chief Program Assistant
Elsie J. English, Counter Program Assistant, (CAP, REAP)
Florine W. Howard, Program Assistant (ADM,PS)
Betty R. Lewis, Program Assistant (Compliance)
Willia McGugan, Program Assistant
Lucille P. Rivenbark, Program Assistant (PA)

1972 ASC COMMUNITY COMMITTEEMEN

Listed in the following order: Chairman, Vice-Chairman,
and Regular Member:

A: Thomas Cowan James T. Wells A. L. Rivenbark	H: Fred W. Harrell Denver Hollingsworth G. T. Lanier
B: Wiley Batson Jerry Fedoronko John Leimone	K: Herbert Wagstaff H. A. Peay W. R. Barnhill
C: G. F. Pridgen Alfred Pittman D. M. Weaver	L: R. L. Batts J. C. Hutcheson Charlie McLendon
D: James V. Eakins N. C. Corbett Jay Woodcock	M: William Edens Woodie Batts Robert King
E: Carlos Cockman L. T. DeBose Paul Wells	N: T. W. Shingleton N. C. Thomas J. W. Piver
F: George Highsmith A. C. Bond E. T. Spencer, Jr.	O: J. A. Farrior W. Carl Heath James Giddens
G: M. L. Bell L. H. Caison J. J. Rowe	P: C. T. Carr R. E. McCoy Eugene Murray

TEMPORARY OFFICE & FIELD EMPLOYEES

W. Lawrence Chadwick, Compliance Supervisor
Della Herring, Program Assistant
Julian Anderson, Reporter
William H. Jordan, Reporter
Howard N. Walker, Reporter

RURAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The soil and water resources of the farm and ranch lands of our Nation must be protected and conserved. This is essential in order that farms and ranches will continue to have the capacity to produce sufficient food and other raw materials to meet the future needs of the Nation.

All the people of this Nation, not the farmers and ranchers alone, have a stake in and a part of the responsibility for protecting and conserving our farm and ranch lands. Recognizing this, the Congress appropriates funds to share with farmers and ranchers the cost of carrying out needed soil and water conservation measures. The Rural Environmental Assistance Program is the means of making this Federal cost-sharing available to farmers and ranchers.

Productive soil, adequate water, and well-managed woodland are the very foundation of American agriculture. The Rural Environmental Assistance Program is the means through which all our people, including farmers, share the costs of conserving these essential national resources. This program increases the rate of application of the research, education, technical, credit, and other services of the Department of Agriculture in actual accomplishment of essential conservation work on the land.

Pender-New Hanover County's allocation for the 1972 REA Program was \$39,890. Of this amount, \$1889 was transferred to the Soil Conservation Service, \$328 to the Forest Service to pay for the technical services performed for the Pender-New Hanover County REA Program. The farmers used approximately \$25,201, which represents 219 farms taking advantage of the REA Program.

COMPLIANCE

Compliance is one of the most important functions in ASCS. In 1967 a relatively new method of compliance was used in Pender County. This method of compliance was used also in 1968, 1969, 1970, 1971 and 1972. This method is known as Compliance by Certification by the farm operator. All farmers who had allotment crops or were participating in any of the farm programs were required to determine their acreage and report them to their local ASCS office during the specified period. May 31st was the final date for wheat, and June 20th for other crops and land uses in Pender and New Hanover Counties.

Regulations require that a minimum of 16 percent of all crops and land uses be measured. Also, all farms operated by county and community committeemen and office personnel were required to be measured.

Before measurement can be started, reporters have to be secured and thoroughly trained. For the compliance activities for 1972 a total of 5 reporters were employed.

DATA FOR 1972

Staking and Referencing Service.....69

Measurement Service..... 7

REGULAR COMPLIANCE PERFORMED

<u>Name of Crop</u>	<u>No. of farms that Certified</u>	<u>No. of farms measured</u>
Wheat-Feed Grain	1293	213
Cotton	2	0
Flue-cured Tobacco	756	150
Peanuts	140	23

INFORMATION

One of our most important goals in 1972 was to promote better public relations and to keep Pender and New Hanover farmers well informed. We know the success of farm programs depends largely on how well each farmer is informed. We, therefore, endeavored to inform farmers about changes in regulations, reminders of important dates, announcements of meetings and other information of interest pertaining to programs administered by ASCS.

Farmers of Pender and New Hanover Counties were informed of ASCS activities in 1972 by day-by-day contacts at the counter, cards and letters, news letters, news releases, radio programs, and TV programs.

Another means of keeping farmers informed about current ASCS activities is through the cooperation of ASC Community Committeemen. Although Community and County Committeemen receive pay for service performed in an official capacity, these committeemen spend much time unofficially promoting ASCS activities.

We moved into our new quarters in November, 1970, in the new Neighborhood Facilities Building, and are enjoying our new office very much. We invite you to visit us and take a tour of our quarters, examine our office equipment, and ask questions about our operations.

PRICE SUPPORT

Government price support programs are administered by ASCS to aid the farmer in obtaining a fair price for what he produces and to promote orderly marketing.

ASCS county offices are authorized to make warehouse and farm storage loans, as well as enter into purchase agreements with eligible producers of grains. Price support was made available to eligible farmers during 1972, on the following commodities: corn, cotton, cottonseed, barley, grain sorghum, oats, rye, honey, peanuts, soybeans, tobacco, wool, and wheat.

Only producers participating in the feed grain program were eligible for price support loans and purchase agreements on feed grains.

The price support program on cotton is carried out by ASCS through the making of warehouse stored loans to eligible producers. Loan documents were prepared by approved loan clerks or ASCS county offices. Most loans were disbursed by county ASCS offices.

Peanut support is available through loans made by the Commodity Credit Corporation to cooperative associations of farmers and also through direct loans to peanut producers. The 1972 crop of peanuts was supported by a national average of \$285.00 per ton. Virginia-type peanuts were supported at \$292.27 per ton in 1972. This is the variety most commonly grown in Pender and New Hanover counties.

Tobacco support is available through tobacco loans made by the Commodity Credit Corporation to cooperative associations of farmers which, in turn, make advances to eligible producers either directly or through auction warehouses. In 1972 the flue-cured tobacco crop was supported at an average of 72.7¢ per pound.

Any farmer desiring to receive price support for storage of commodities, must provide adequate and acceptable storage for the commodity either on the farm or in an approved commercial warehouse. Some farmers miss the advantage of price support because they do not have adequate storage. If farmers have adequate storage they may obtain price support loans which will enable them to take advantage of any price increase. In a number of cases income is increased above that which would have been received had the commodity been sold on a usually depressed market at time of harvest.

FARM STORAGE STRUCTURE AND DRYING EQUIPMENT LOAN PROGRAM

Since 1949 ASCS county offices have operated a loan program on storage and drying equipment. This program is to help farmers provide for storing commodities to be placed under price support. Loans are made available to producers to finance the purchase of farm storage facilities and drying equipment. The maximum amount that can be loaned on needed farm storage is 85 percent of the cost. On drying equipment the maximum amount that can be loaned is 85 percent of the cost of applicant's needed drying equipment, or \$5000, whichever is lesser.

There is no service fee for either type loan. Each type loan is repayable in four installments over a five-year period. The first payment is due one year after the date of disbursement of the loan. Fire insurance for an amount sufficient to cover the unpaid balance due CCC on all multi-purpose drying equipment loans, became effective March 15, 1972.

SUMMARY OF STORAGE STRUCTURE AND DRYING EQUIPMENT LOANS DISBURSED

January 1, 1972

December 31, 1972

FARM STORAGE STRUCTURE LOANS

1. Number of loans disbursed during period	10
2. Capacity of loans during period	37,131

DRYING EQUIPMENT LOANS

1. Number of loans disbursed in 1972	11
2. Amount of loans disbursed in 1972	\$45,629.30

FARM STORED COMMODITY LOANS

Price Support Programs are also administered by USDA to stabilize prices on farm commodities. Depending upon the commodity, farmers may obtain support price by loans and through sale of farm products. In the case of wool, direct payments are made through the incentive programs and price support payments are made directly to eligible participants under the cotton, feed grain, and wheat annual programs.

Price support rates are proclaimed by the Secretary of Agriculture each year.

1972 ASCS LOAN RATES (North Carolina)

<u>Commodity</u>	<u>Loan Rate</u>	<u>Payment in Kind Rate</u>	<u>Measure-ment</u>
Barley	\$.91	\$	Bushe1
Corn	1.22	.32	Bushe1
Oats	.65		Bushe1
Rye	1.08		Bushe1
Soybeans	2.24		Bushe1
Wheat	1.31	1.28	Bushe1
Honey	14.8¢		Pound
Peanuts	292.27 (Va. type-av. grade)		Ton
Cotton (MID 1")	20.50¢ Eastern	.15	Pound
Tobacco	72.7		Pound
Wool	.72		Pound
Grain Sorghum	1.85		Bushe1

1972 COMMODITY LOANS

<u>Commodity</u>	<u>Number Loans</u>	<u>Amount Disbursed</u>	<u>Bushels</u>
Corn	33	\$196,121.60	160,755
Soybeans	2	\$ 7,387.52	3,298

PRODUCTION ADJUSTMENT PROGRAM

GENERAL

The Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1938, as enacted on February 6, 1938, contained the first authorization for our present acreage allotment and marketing quota program. The Act authorizes acreage allotments and marketing quotas on wheat, tobacco, cotton, peanuts, and rice. Prior to 1959, the Act also permitted acreage allotments on corn. However, as a result of the Agricultural Act of 1958 and a vote by farmers in the commercial corn area, acreage allotments and a commercial corn producing area were not established for 1959 and subsequent crops of corn.

Acreage allotments and marketing quotas were designed as a means of keeping supplies of agricultural commodities in line with demand. Marketing quotas must be approved by at least two-thirds of the growers voting in a referendum before they may be placed in effect. Marketing quotas are administered by use of farm acreage allotments; however, acreage allotment are required by law for some commodities even though marketing quotas are not in effect. This is necessary in order to determine the farm's eligibility for price support when quotas are not in effect.

Acreage allotments and marketing quotas are administered as follows:

1. The Secretary of Agriculture determines the amount of cotton, tobacco, peanuts, wheat or rice needed and proclaims this as the quota or allotment.
2. This amount is divided among the states and counties generally on the basis of the past history of growing the commodity.
3. Each farmer receives his share of the national quotas as an acreage allotment based on the production history of the farm.
4. The farm operator is required to stay within all allotments established for his farm.
5. A marketing card is issued to identify the commodity when the farmer goes to market.

TOBACCO

Pender-New Hanover County had 1677 farms in 1972, with an established flue-cured tobacco allotment. Total allotment on these farms was 2832.01 acres. There was no change in the allotment for 1972.

We had one farmer in our county who filed an application for a new grower allotment for tobacco for the year 1972. This farm did not meet the eligibility requirements for a new grower allotment and no allotment could be approved.

The Lease and Transfer Program for tobacco was still in effect for 1972. A written request signed by all interested parties had to be filed with the county committee by April 1, 1972. We had 820 farmers who took advantage of this lease and transfer program in 1972, leasing a total of 1,920,518 pounds, which were moved to 393 other farms in the county who had requested this leased tobacco to be moved to their farms.

The Acreage-Poundage Program was approved by growers in a referendum in July of 1970 for the 1971, 1972, and 1973 crops of tobacco. Under this program a farmer is limited to the pounds established for his farm as well as the acreage allotted. Each farm has a marketing quota established for his farm based on the yields for his farm for the five years 1959-63. The total for our county for 1972 was 5,012,674 pounds. This does not include the over and under marketing pounds.

Under the Acreage-Poundage Program if all the pounds are not sold, the farm receives credit for this undermarketing and this can be sold the next year. We had 476,462 pounds under marketing in 1972. On the other hand, a farm was allowed to sell up to 10 percent above the established marketing quota if he desired. This overmarketing is taken from the marketing quota for the next year. We had 128,878 pounds overmarketed in 1972.

COTTON

In 1972 we had 98 farms with a cotton allotment, as compared to 99 farms in 1971. Total allotment on these farms was 193.7 acres. Our cotton allotments have been reduced both in size and in number of farms due to our farmers failing to plant. According to the cotton marketing quota regulations, farmers must plant or release their cotton each year in order to maintain their full allotment.

The cotton lease and transfer program was available in 1972 for farms within the county. No applications were filed for this program within the county. Cotton allotments could also be transferred outside the county for the year 1972. Three farmers took advantage of this and transferred their allotment to other counties.

We had 54 of our cotton farmers to release their cotton allotment in the amount of 124.2 acres for reapportionment to other farms. No requests were made for this acreage in Pender County; therefore, it was surrendered to the State Committee to be used for farms in other counties.

COTTON SET-ASIDE PROGRAM

In 1972 to earn a cotton price support payment and become eligible for a CCC loan, a producer was required to sign up and set-aside from crop production an acreage equal to 20 percent of his allotment.

Another requirement was to plant cotton in order to earn a price support payment. Also, if a producer planted less than 90 percent of the base acreage allotment, the base acreage allotment for 1973 would be reduced except if the underplanting was due to drought or disaster.

Two cotton producers in Pender County signed up to participate in the program, but did not plant any cotton, therefore no payment was earned.

PEANUTS

For the year 1972 we had 203 farms with an established peanut allotment. Total allotment on these farms was 1488.9 acres.

If a producer does not want to plant his peanuts he can release them to the county committee to be reapportioned to other farms in the county. Three of our farmers participated in the reapportionment program in 1972, releasing 74.7 acres. Ten farms requested this released acreage.

The lease and transfer program was still in effect in 1972, which permitted farmers to sell or lease their allotment to other farms in the county. We had 50 farmers taking advantage of this program. One of these farmers sold their allotment to be transferred permanently. Acres sold amounted to 7.4. Fifty farmers leased their peanut allotment to other farms in the county on a temporary basis, in the amount of 363.2 acres.

Peanuts are considered one of the basic cash crops in our county. In 1972, there were 1204.4 acres of peanut harvested. Total production from this acreage was 2,490,498 pounds, resulting in a yield per acre of 2068 pounds. This compares with a yield of 1278 pounds per acre in 1971. Wet weather prevented many of our farmers from harvesting all of their peanuts in 1972, resulting in a much lower yield per acre for our county.

A Peanut Referendum was held from December 6-10, 1971, to determine whether marketing quotas would be in effect for the crop years 1972-74. Quotas were approved in the referendum. We had 52 farmers who voted in this referendum and only two voted against quotas for the 1972-74 crops of peanuts.

WHEAT

Pender-New Hanover County had 275 farms with an established wheat allotment for the year 1972. The total allotment for these farms was 294.7 acres.

Marketing quotas were not in effect for the 1972 crop of wheat. Therefore, farmers could plant as much wheat as they wanted without paying penalty on wheat planted above the wheat allotment established for their farm.

There were no requests for new grower wheat allotments for the year 1972.

The primary objective of the 1972 Wheat Program was to bring wheat production along with feed grains in line with needs. During 1970, due to the extreme blight in corn, a sharp reduction was made in the reserve of wheat and corn, which increased the need for increased planting of wheat and feed grains for 1972.

Other provisions of the 1972 wheat program are set-aside payments were made to participants for setting aside 75 percent of their basic allotment. The entire acreage of wheat planted on the farm was eligible for price support. Substitution was allowed for wheat and feed grains.

Pender-New Hanover County had 200 producers with effective allotments of 236 acres participating in the 1972 wheat program. Payments of \$12,349 were made to producers for setting aside 165 acres.

FEED GRAIN PROGRAM

The 1972 voluntary feed grain program was new in comparsion to previous programs. Three feed grains--corn, grain sorghum, and barley were eligible under the 1972 program.

Producers could participate in the 1972 Feed Grain Program by setting aside a minimum of 25% of the total feed grain base. Additional acreage could be set-aside up to a total of 45% of the total feed grain base. Payments were figured on the basis of individual farm program yields.

Farmers could benefit from participation in several ways depending on individual operations. Principal benefits were: (1) price support loans, and (2) set-aside payments.

Below is a summary of the participation and payments computed under the program for Pender and New Hanover Counties:

Number of farms with feed grain bases	2,237
Total feed grain base	23,384
Feed Grain farms participating	1,264
Feed Grain bases on participating farms	19,845
Set-aside Acres	8,048
Amount of set-aside payments	\$425,907

CROPLAND ADJUSTMENT PROGRAM

The Cropland Adjustment Program began in 1966, authorizing the Secretary of Agriculture to enter into agreements with farmers to divert cropland normally used for the production of feed grain, allotment and non-allotment crops, to conserving and recreational uses.

The period of agreement is for 5 to 10 years. Farmers may receive cost-share payments for establishing an approved conservation or recreation practice. Annual adjustment payments are made each October for acreage placed under agreement.

The designated acreage must be maintained for the duration of the agreements to prevent erosion and control weeds and insects. No crops may be planted for harvest or harvested on the designated acreage. All allotment crops and feed grain bases for the farm under agreement must be in compliance as well as all other farms in which the producer has an interest.

In 1972, 16 annual payments were made, which amounted to \$5,313.00

WE WISH TO EXPRESS OUR SINCERE THANKS AND APPRECIATION TO:

Pender County Board of Commissioners and taxpayers of Pender County for our conveniently located office.

State Office Personnel who have been so cooperative and understanding in connection with our work.

Our District Directors, Mr. Max H. Cornwell, and Mr. Alfred Willetts, for their helpfulness, patience and understanding.

Community Committeemen for their loyalty, cooperation and advice.

The Pender Chronicle for relaying to the public ASCS articles and news.

Radio Station WPGF and TV Station WECT for their cooperation and covering of our programs.

Other agricultural agencies for their unselfish cooperation in helping to make our program a success.

Vendors and others who have cooperated so faithfully.

And last, but by no means least, to the farmers of Pender-New Hanover Counties for their fine spirit of cooperation during 1972. We believe the understanding and public relations between the ASCS Office and farmers of Pender and New Hanover Counties are unmatched.

